

Learn from the Past

Sermon 11 in the Philippians Series

Philippians 2:14-16

Warnings come to us as New Covenant Christians not to follow the too often negative example of ancient Israel.

What we see is not so much a warning as a contrast.

I. Do All Things without Complaining and Disputing v. 14

The example of Israel:

In Exodus 15:23-25

In Exodus 15:24 (23-25)

In Exodus 16:7-8 (2-8)

Do All things without complaining or disputing (arguing).

Paul implies the sin of Israel – was Questioning the Providence of God!

Complaining is the precursor to rebellion.

Discontented is exactly the opposite of what we are to be.

1 Corinthians 10:10-11 (6-11)

⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. ⁷ And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, “*The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.*” ⁸ Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; ⁹ nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; ¹⁰ **nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.**

¹¹ *Now all these things happened to them as examples*, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

II. The Contrast with Israel and the Philippians v. 15

Deut 3:5

“they have corrupted themselves” – BUT YOU, be blameless

“they are not His children” – BUT YOU are children of God

“they are blemished” – BUT YOU are without fault

“they are a perverse and crooked generation” – BUT YOU live in the midst of a perverse and crooked generation – shining as lights in the world.

Phil 1:27

²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

Phil 2:12

- ¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence...

That contrasts with the words of Moses in **Deut. 31:27**

²⁷ for I know your rebellion and your stiff neck. If today, while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the LORD, then how much more after my death?

Ways that the NT differs from the OT.

- 1) We see very little evangelistic effort outside of Israel in the OT.
-- We see the church aggressively evangelistic into the Gentile world.
- 2) We see a mixed multitude – in the church in the wilderness – with the majority of them not knowing the Lord.
-- We all know the Lord – from the least to the greatest (Jeremiah 31:31-34).
- 3) They lived in anticipation of the promised coming of Messiah.
-- We live in the realization that He has come.
- 4) They lived in hope of the promises to come.
-- We live in the age of fulfillment and at the end of the ages.

III. The Unity of True OT Saints and NT Saints

1. Blameless and harmless (innocent)
2. Children of God
3. Without fault (blemish, blot) in the midst of the present wickedness
4. Lights in the world (by word and life)
5. Holding fast the word of life

